

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 01763 041843Z

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ACTION IO-14

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FAA-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 DRC-01 OIC-04 DOTE-00 /109 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO AMCONSUL MONTREAL IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2975

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MONTREAL FOR US REP ICAO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, SG, XX, NI

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - SENEGALESE PROPOSAL FOR ICAO COUNCIL
ELECTION AMENDMENT

REFS: STATE 040163; LAGOS 1737

SUMMARY: NIGERIAN DELEGATE IN MONTREAL HAS WIDE DISCRETION ON SUCH ICAO MATTERS AS SENEGALESE PROPOSAL AND IS BEST CHANNEL FOR ANY INFLUENCE WE MIGHT HOPE TO EXERT. HOWEVER, FMG GENERALLY FAVORS PRINCIPLE OF BROADER GEOGRAPHIC REPRESENTATION, SO THAT NIGERIAN ABSTENTION IS PROBABLY MOST FAVORABLE OUTCOME WE CAN HOPE TO ACHIEVE. END SUMMARY

1. AS ANTICIPATED LAGOS REFTEL, EMBASSY MADE APPROACHES MARCH 2 AND 4 TO DEPUTY DIRECTOR CIVIL AVIATION IN MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT (OGUNBIYE) AND TO DIRECTOR INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT MEA (ADENIJI) WITH REGARD TO SENEGALESE PROPOSAL FOR MODIFYING VOTING PROCEDURE IN ELECTION ICAO COUNCIL.

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PAGE 02 LAGOS 01763 041843Z

2. BOTH MEN LISTENED CAREFULLY TO ARGUMENTS AGAINST

SENEGALESE PROPOSAL PRESENTED IN STATE REFTEL, BUT NEITHER MAN WAS MORE THAN VAGUELY FAMILIAR WITH SENEGALESE INITIATIVE. NEITHER WAS AWARE OF ANY NIGERIAN COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT SENEGALESE PROPOSAL, BUT ADENIJI SAID THAT NIGERIAN PERMREP TO ICAO MIGHT WELL HAVE OFFERED SUCH SUPPORT IN CONTEXT GENERAL FMG VIEWS ON DESIRABILITY GREATER GEOGRAPHIC BALANCE ON INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. ADENIJI ADDED PERSONAL VIEW THAT ICAO COUNCIL COULD PROBABLY BE MODIFIED TO PERMIT BROADER GEOGRAPHIC REPRESENTATION WITHOUT DILUTING TECHNICAL COMPETENCE OF ORGANIZATION, BUT RESERVED JUDGEMENT AS TO WHETHER SENEGALESE PROPOSAL WAS BEST MEANS OF ACHIEVING THIS AIM. OGUNBIYE EXPRESSED PERSONAL AND OFF-RECORD JUDGMENT THAT HE WOULD OPPOSE INTRODUCTION OF GEOGRAPHICAL CONSIDERATIONS INTO ELECTION FOR PART 1 OF COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP, BUT ALSO DECLINED TO COMMENT ON OVERALL SENEGALESE PROPOSAL.

3. IN PRESENCE OF EMBOFF, OGUNBIYE DRAFTED CABLE MARCH 2 TO NIGERIAN PERMREP IN MONTREAL ASKING FOR STATUS REPORT ON SITUATION WITH REGARD TO SENEGALESE PROPOSAL. HE GAVE NO INDICATION PLAN TO TAKE ANY FURTHER ACTION. IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION WITH ADENIJI, LATTER SUGGESTED THAT MATTER RESTED LARGELY IN HANDS MOT AND ITS REPRESENTATIVE IN MONTREAL, AND FROM HIS REUMUEYION SUBSTANCE OF SENEGALESE INITIATIVE MADE CLEAR MEA DOES NOT EXPECT TAKE ANY ACTION.

4. COMMENT: EVIDENT FROM TWO PRESENTATIONS HERE THAT NIGERIAN DELEGATE IN MONTREAL HAS BROAD DISCRETION IN MATTERS SUCH AS SENEGALESE INITIATIVE, AND THAT HE IS INDEED MAN TO SEE IF THERE IS TO BE ANY HOPE SWINGING NIGERIANS INTO OPPOSITION ON THIS PROPOSAL. GIVEN GENERAL FMG POSTURE FAVORING BROADER GEOGRAPHIC REPRESENTATION IN BODIES LIKE ICAO COUNCIL, ABSTENTION MAY HOWEVER BE BEST WE CAN REALISTICALLY HOPE TO ACHIEVE.

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